

been the sworn foe of persecution. And then the long and bloody tale of the horrors of that persecution, that lawless tyranny, under the auspices of Philip's representatives, Gran-velle, Margaret, Alva, Requesens, is recounted in order that the world may judge who is responsible for the miseries of these terrible years. If calumny could invent crimes, calumny, it is evident, could cut both ways. Verily it is not for Philip, who has murdered his wife and his son, and whose ministers deal in poison, to speak of crimes. It is not from the murderer and tyrant that he will take his fate. He does not fear Philip's assassins. He has been exposed to their deadly machinations for years past. Assassination may be accounted an honourable profession and lead to preferment in the Spanish court. His murderer may become a grandee. There is not a simple gentleman in any other country where true nobility is appreciated who would eat at the same table with the villain whom Philip undertakes to enrich and ennoble. His fate is in the hands of God, and he is ready to sacrifice his life for his country. Let the States-General, to whom the "Apology" is addressed, decide. "You see, gentlemen, that it is this head that they seek, on which they have placed so great a price, saying that as long as I live there will be no end of the war. Would God, gentlemen, that either my exile or my death would bring you a real deliverance from the many evils and calamities which the Spaniards contrive against you. Oh how sweet would death, banishment, be to me even at such a price ! For why have I risked all my goods ? To enrich myself ? Why lost my brothers, whom I loved better than myself ? To find others ? Why left my son so long a prisoner ? Can you restore him to me or give me another ? Why placed my life so often in danger ? What reward can I expect for the long labours which I have sustained for your sake till old age has come upon me, and in spite of the loss of all earthly possessions, unless to win liberty for you, if need be with my blood ? If, therefore, gentlemen, you judge that my banishment or death may be of service to you, I am ready to obey. Command me, send me to the ends of the earth, I will obey. Behold my head, over which no prince or monarch has power, but only you. Dispose of it for your benefit, for the good and conservation of the republic, But if you judge that my